

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of national affecting labor movements in the industrial, commercial and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1937

FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer

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## President Green Declares That Preservation of Majority Rule In Labor Movement Is the Real Issue in C. I. O. Controversy

**Tells Woman Congress That "By the Unwarranted Action of a Minority Group Organized Labor Has Been Rent Asunder" at a Critical Period for the Workers "Because Those Who Lost in a Fair Fight in the Convention of the American Federation of Labor Decided to Force the Unwilling Majority to Accept Their Dictum and Control"—Presents Abundant Evidence to Puncture the Canard That the A. F. of L. Opposes Industrial Unionism.**

**"In This Fight in Which It Is Engaged for the Preservation of Democracy, the American Federation of Labor Will Stand as It Has Ever Stood, a Bulwark Against the Representatives of Those Subversive Forces Which Constantly Seek to Undermine Our Cherished Institutions and to Destroy Our Form of Government"—"The A. F. of L. Will Never Surrender the Principle of Democratic Control or Yield to Minority Force and Domination."**

In an address before the Fourth Woman Congress in Chicago, held under the sponsorship of the Chicago Tribune, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, declared that the firmly rooted principle underlying the establishment of the Committee for Industrial Organization was a definitely determined plan to rebel against majority rule in the organization and administrative policies of the Federation and to substitute for democratic procedure a minority dictatorship designed to overthrow decisions made by the annual conventions of the American Federation of Labor.

In plain, positive, and unequivocal language, Mr. Green said that the A. F. of L. "will never accept a dictator or submit to autocratic control."

Recounting in detail the procedure of the 1935 convention of the American Federation of Labor in reaching the decision regarding organization policies, copied by a large majority of the delegates after full debate, Mr. Green outlined the events connected with the rebellion against this decision by a minority group called the Committee for Industrial Organization.

He also cited the numerous attempts made by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to persuade the C. I. O. leaders to dissolve their group, which had been held by the Executive Council to be a dual organization within the American Federation of Labor, and resume their place as loyal members of the Federation. By their refusal to comply with this reasonable request, Mr. Green, said the C. I. O. leaders automatically suspended themselves from membership in the Federation.

In addition, Mr. Green pointed out the change made by the Committee for Industrial Organization and some of its satellites that the American Federation of Labor is opposed to industrial unionism. He pointed out that both craft and industrial unions are approved by the Federation, according to circumstances, and called attention to a number of charters, including the charter of the United Mine Workers of America, granted by the American Federation of Labor as competent and complete evidence to prove the falsity of the claim that the issue with the C. I. O. involves the question of craft unions versus industrial unions.

The text of Mr. Green's address follows:

The statement made by the great, human philosopher, Thomas Carlyle, in 1850, that "This that they call the Organization of Labor is the universal, vital problem of the world," assumes new meaning and takes on added significance at this time in our Nation's history.

The problem of organized labor can, at this time, truly be regarded as of paramount interest and of tremendous public concern. The important place it occupies in the daily press is evidence of the prominence it plays in current events and in public thought and attention.

I am grateful for the opportunity to address you tonight. This non-partisan forum on national and international affairs provides a most appropriate setting for the discussion of the subject of organized labor.

I interpret the invitation extended me by the representative of the Fourth Woman Congress, held under the auspices of the Chicago Tribune, as evidence of the very deep interest which all those at attendance at this Congress hold in the conflict which has arisen within the ranks of Labor.

**Majority Rule Is Main Labor Issue**

The friends of Labor will view, with feelings of apprehension, the way in which the divided family of Labor will be compelled to face grave issues which grow out of a changing world. Its enemies will rejoice if the hosts of Labor dissipate their strength and vitality in fighting among themselves.

This logically makes both the present and future outlook for Labor a matter of grave concern for all those who sincerely wish to see Labor succeed in its efforts to lift living standards for the masses of the people to a higher level and to serve as a medium through which working men and women may promote their economic and social welfare.

What is this momentous issue which has entered the House of Labor and divided the family residing therein into hostile camps? This question is being asked by millions of people. They are seeking an answer.

To those who have participated in the historic development of

the American Federation of Labor the answer is clear and easily understood.

Perhaps the real issue can be presented from the point of view of the American Federation of Labor by asking the question, Shall the organization and administrative policies of the American Federation of Labor be determined by majority rule, in democratic fashion, at Conventions of the American Federation of Labor, in which the representatives of the entire membership participate, or shall the minority who participated in those deliberations and in the open forum of debate and lost, through force impose its will upon the majority?

There is only one answer which can be made to these questions. To the first, it must be "Yes," to the second, "No." The one means the triumph of democracy and the other the rule of anarchy.

The American Federation of Labor, therefore, is meeting the issue fearlessly and without flinching. It is fighting to preserve democracy in the administration of the affairs of organized labor, just as it applies in the administration of government and other organized groups of American citizens.

**Minority Group Has Destroyed Labor Unity**

This issue, which has grown out of the conflict which has arisen within the ranks of organized labor, transcends in importance any other issue which may be offered for public discussion and consideration.

By the unwarranted action of a minority group organized labor has been rent asunder at a time when the Nation is on the threshold of economic and social betterment, and when, through a united front and through cooperation, it could take advantage of the great opportunity to promote human welfare, because those who lost in a fair fight in the Convention of the American Federation of Labor decided to force the unwilling majority to accept their dictum and control.

Labor lived united in the House which the architects and builders of the American Federation of Labor had erected during their period of service, covering more than half a century. The family of organized labor that dwelt therein was harmonious, self-disciplined, inspired by a common purpose and a common desire.

Samuel Gompers was the chief architect who, during a lifetime of service, contributed most toward the establishment of the House of Labor upon a sound foundation and the erection thereon of a structure which he and those associated with him firmly believed was safe and indestructible.

It withstood the storms and stress of conflicting opinions and divergent views as they raged for fifty-five years, unharmed, unshaken and perfectly preserved.

The family of Labor dwelt therein during this long period of its proud history free from serious discord and open rupture until November, 1935.

What happened then? We must turn to the records for accurate information.

**Establishment of C. I. O.**

The records of the fifty-fifth annual convention show that the industrial union movement, which had been organized for the year 1935 were determined to vote in the vote of more than two out of the one day agreed delegates in attendance at the Convention.

Immediately following the adjournment of this Convention a new organization was set up called the Committee for Industrial Organization.

It was made up of organizations which had been members of the Convention of the American Federation of Labor in October, 1935, where the delegates representing these organizations had agreed to abide by the democratic decision which was made.

**Dual Organization Could Not Be Tolerated**

That declaration was made by this notwithstanding the fact that all rules of parliamentary procedure call for (Continued on Page 2)

## Wisconsin Federation of Labor Asks C. I. O. Leader to Leave That Body

**Emil Costello, Backer of "People's Conference of Social and Labor Legislation," Charged With Violating Federation's Principles and Constitution—Warning Issued Against "Aristocratic Dictators Who Are Opposed to Secretly Communist or Henchmen Under Their Command."**

**Mr. E. F. of L. News Service.**

MILWAUKEE, Wis.,—Grappling in earnest with the destructive policy of John L. Lewis' Committee for Industrial Organization, the General Executive Board of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, after an all-day session devoted to "considering statements from various sources regarding certain persons in the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor," has decided to take the board's stand first for having violated the principles and constitution of the Federation.

The resolution demanding Costello's resignation was passed by a vote of nine for, one opposed and one not voting. Costello cast the negative vote.

After the meeting was adjourned Costello held the board he would not resign. The board thereupon declared that a trial on the formal charges will be held.

The board said its action "was not of a general nature against the C. I. O. organization, but was based on the individual conduct of Costello as an organizer, in connection with communist groups."

The board said it was a State chairman of the C. I. O., "to reveal the organization in Wisconsin it was stated that the Costello case brought into the open a 'growing menace to the farmer and labor movement in our State'."

The statement takes the story by the head and clearly indicates the destructive methods used by certain individuals to assure the functions which the workers of our State have vested in the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor.

The action of the board in demanding the resignation of Costello, by direction of the General Executive Board, continued:

**Disruptive Ties Lead Charge**

The General Executive Board of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, after a session of several days, has decided to demand the resignation of Emil Costello, State chairman of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, and former union aide that

## Roosevelt's Plan For Infusing New Blood in Supreme Court Is Supported by A. F. of L. Green Declares

### EDITORIALS

#### CAN'T THIS CONTRACT BE CANCELED?

The decision of the National Labor Relations Board that Remington Rand, Inc., has resorted to wholesale violations of the National Labor Relations Act in its war against trade unionism among its 6,000 employees may result in a new contract for the National Security Board of a \$75,000 contract for photographic supplies awarded to the addition company before the Labor Board announced its ruling.

An American Federation of Labor union called the strike against Remington Rand last week because of the company's definite anti-union policy. Six thousand members in a number of states were involved in the strike.

The Labor Relations Board ordered the company to reinstate 4,000 workers who are still on strike.

Under the terms of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, the National Security Board of a \$75,000 contract for photographic supplies awarded to the addition company before the Labor Board announced its ruling.

Arthur Altmeyer, chairman of the Social Security Board, issued a statement in which he stated that "it is the policy of the Social Security Board to make no purchases from the Remington Rand Company so long as it engages in practices charged by the Labor Board."

Altmeyer said that the \$75,000 contract for photographic records against the company is void.

"However, the Social Security Board has directed that the entire contract be reconsidered for purposes of determining whether any other course is now open to the Board."

One paragraph of the Labor Relations Board decision against Remington Rand, Inc., said:

"Over 4,000 employees, with their families and dependents, are subjected to the miseries of a prolonged strike, the people at rest communities experience the economic hardship which results from an accumulation of these same conditions."

These atrocities summarized by the Board, which declared against Remington Rand, Inc., in carrying out its duty to protect working men and women in their right to organize in bona fide unions and carry on trade union work without being victimized by employers, it would seem that the Social Security Board might find a way to cancel this contract which would force Federal funds to pay a strike of such a notorious law-violating company.

**TRADE UNION BENEFITS**

A striking instance of the assistance which unions in the American Federation of Labor give to their unemployed members and their families is revealed in the fact that the National Labor Relations Board has ordered the New York Photo Engravers Union No. 1, that of affluence of the National Labor Relations Board, to pay \$24,000 to the unemployed members of the union for the last six years. The average number idle in this union was 600 at a time.

The amount paid by the New York Photo Engravers Union multiplied by the number of unions in the 25 standard national and international unions making up the American Federation of Labor, raises the \$24,000 many times and brings a certain amount of money to thousands of unemployed union members and their dependents.

**San Francisco Bag Makers Win Strike for Higher Pay**

**Mr. E. F. of L. News Service.**

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.,—Members of San Francisco bag makers for four months, after a strike with four big employers, have won a 10 percent increase in wages and a 40-hour week in an agreement signed last Saturday.

The agreement was signed after a long and bitter struggle in classifications and shorter hours.

### Tells Senate Committee the Workers Believe the Constitution Is Broad Enough to Meet the "Expanding Economic and Social Conditions of a Constantly Changing World," But That the Judiciary Have "Lagged Behind" the Legislative and Executive Branches of State and Federal Government "in the Realization of the Necessity of Legislation to Meet These Problems."

**Holds That the Periodical Appointment to the Supreme Court of Men Who Have a "Clear and Definite Understanding of the Realities and Facts Which Surround People in Their Daily Work and Activities" Will Result "in the Interpretation of the Constitution in Its Relation to the Economic and Social Aspects of Life."**

**By A. F. of L. News Service.**

Washington, D. C.—A well-documented argument in favor of President Roosevelt's recommendation for the "infusion of new blood" in the Supreme Court was made by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee giving Labor's support of the President's plan.

The committee is considering the bill drafted in conformity with the President's proposal for reorganizing the Federal Judiciary, including the appointment of six new justices to the Supreme Court unless the justices now over seventy retire.

Pointing out the tremendous influence on the lives of the masses resulting from changing economic conditions, Mr. Green said that judges, who exercise power to interpret the Constitution and declare laws enacted by Congress and signed by the President valid or invalid, should come periodically from life closely associated with the people and their needs and not exist as a cloistered group removed from the general welfare and intimately connected with the processes of industrial and social evolution.

"Labor is quite willing," he said, "to take its chance with the Supreme Court in its determination of constitutional questions, but it is not willing to see the work of the judiciary of the Court constantly remade and reconstructed with men who come from close association with their fellow men, as recommended by the President of the United States."

Mr. Green insisted, however, that the American Federation of Labor would be strongly opposed to the appointment of any justice "whose basis for appointment is a predetermination on his part on any specific program."

He expressed the belief that President Roosevelt has not the remotest desire to make any such appointments and that the Senate will not confirm such appointments if made.

The text of Mr. Green's statement follows:

The American Federation of Labor appears before the committee in support of the President's plan for the infusion of new blood in the Supreme Court, arising from the impact of the forces which deal with the economic and social welfare of American life, and the need for a new type of justice in this field, the Supreme Court must be able to deal with the new social and economic conditions which have arisen since the Great War brought into sharp focus the significance of this movement and developed a widespread consciousness on the part of all, resulting in the acceptance by a widespread majority of the people in the various communities and in the nation as a whole of the principle of social and economic legislation and safety laws.

The American Federation of Labor by action of its Executive Council on January 17, 1937, endorsed the recommendation of the President of the United States that new blood be infused in the Supreme Court of the United States at this time.

Labor's Social Legislation Program

The American Federation of Labor has since its inception, for fifty years,

has been planning for social and economic legislation from the impact of the forces which deal with the economic and social welfare of American life, and the need for a new type of justice in this field, the Supreme Court must be able to deal with the new social and economic conditions which have arisen since the Great War brought into sharp focus the significance of this movement and developed a widespread consciousness on the part of all, resulting in the acceptance by a widespread majority of the people in the various communities and in the nation as a whole of the principle of social and economic legislation and safety laws.

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**Labor Board Orders Remington Rand To Rehire Four Thousand Strikers**

**Company Is Charged With Wholesale Violations of Federal Labor Relations Act and With Using "Excessive Brutality" to Break Strike of A. F. of L. Unionists Called CIO's Agents to Commit Acts of Disorder and Violence and to Provide Others to Commit Such Acts."**

**By A. F. of L. News Service.**

Washington, D. C.—In an epochal and sweeping decision the National Labor Relations Board held today that Remington Rand, Inc., had committed wholesale violations of the National Labor Relations Act and had used "excessive brutality" to break the strike of its 6,000 employees in six plants in New York State, Connecticut and Ohio, which began on May 25, 1936, following the refusal of James H. Rand, Jr., president of the company, to confer with the Remington Rand Joint Protective Board, an American Federation of Labor union, to discuss grievances of the employees.

In addition the Board ordered the company to reemploy 4,000 of its employees still on strike, instructed it to bargain collectively with the A. F. of L. union, and to cease immediately violations of the Labor Relations Act.

The Board also ordered the company to pay \$100,000 to the strikers for insight into the mechanics of strikebreaking and describes in detail the unscrupulous methods employed by Remington Rand to break the strike of the 6,000 employees who refused last spring from the company's "firm determination not to bargain collectively with the union representing these employees to settle the issue by force."

**Rees Strikebreakers**

The decision relates how the company employed four well-known strikebreakers, known as "Rees," to break the strike of the A. F. of L. unionists. The Board stated that it had, through James H. Rand, Jr., called upon the Rees to break the strike of the A. F. of L. unionists. The Board stated that it had, through James H. Rand, Jr., called upon the Rees to break the strike of the A. F. of L. unionists. The Board stated that it had, through James H. Rand, Jr., called upon the Rees to break the strike of the A. F. of L. unionists.

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